

CHAPTER 426

H.B. No. 537

AN ACT

relating to the procedures for determining eligibility for parole of a defendant serving a life sentence after conviction of a capital felony.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 7, Article 42.18, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by amending Subsection (e) and adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

(e) *Except as provided by Subsection (g) of this section, in [In] matters of parole, release to mandatory supervision, and revocation of parole or mandatory supervision, the board members shall act in panels comprised of three persons in each panel. The composition of the respective panels shall be designated by the chairman of the board. A majority of each panel shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of its business, and its decisions shall be by majority vote.*

(g) *The board may grant parole to a person convicted of a capital felony only on a two-thirds vote of the entire membership of the board.*

SECTION 2. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed by the House on February 25, 1993: Yeas 134, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting;
passed by the Senate on May 22, 1993: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 6, 1993.

Effective June 6, 1993.